25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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99/P 1-0460

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chiefs of DD/P Staffs and Divisions

SUBJECT : Health Insurance for Contract Personnel

1. An Agency Health Insurance Program, substantially the same as that authorized for appointed staff personnel, has been made available to those full-time contract employees and career agents who are U. S. citizens or resident aliens and who wish to enroll.

- 2. The same plan has been made available to contract agents, either U. S. citizens or aliens, whose applications are approved by the Deputy Director concerned or his designee and accepted by the GEHA Board of Directors.
- 3. This new program should prove a decided benefit to contract personnel. As it relates to contract employees and career agents it demonstrates another area wherein these personnel can be afforded benefits equal to those granted staff employees. With regard to its application to contract agents, it should be a useful tool to have but its appropriateness should be considered carefully in each instance.
- 4. Health insurance should be approved for contract agents only after it has been determined by the component that such a benefit is consistent with the operational relationship existing between the agent and the Agency. A government-backed health insurance program may, in many instances, be inconsistent with the varied and often unique arrangements under which contract agents are engaged. Provision has been made for all or any part of contract agent premium costs to be paid by the Agency. A determination as to who shall bear the cost of premiums should be made on the basis of operational relationships in each instance. Regardless of whether the Agency pays the total premium or the agent pays all or a part, all premium payments to the insurance branch should be effected at Headquarters in order to simplify administration and to avoid unnecessary correspondence between the field and Headquarters.
- 5. In order to permit the components to apply this insurance program to contract agents in accordance with their particular needs, the regularly appointed contract approving officers within the Clandestine Services are named as my designees to approve the applications of contract agents.

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6. An Agency Notice will be issued announcing the program and explaining its administration and procedures.

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR. Deputy Director (Plans)